

Town Board Adopts Councilwoman Cartright's Legislation to Designate "Timothy Smith House" a Historic Town Landmark

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Farmingville, NY - On September 9, the Town Board voted unanimously during a public hearing to designate the "Timothy Smith House and Granary" in Setauket as a Historic Town Landmark. The new legislation was sponsored by Councilwoman Valerie M. Cartright.

The Timothy Smith House, located at 55 Main Street, dates back to c. 1695 and was purchased by Timothy Smith (1730-1790) in 1780. His father, Daniel, who also lived in the home, owned a significant amount of land in Brookhaven and served as Town Clerk for 36 years from 1739-1775. His sons, Amos and Elijah, also served as Brookhaven Town Clerk from 1776-1782 and 1783-1788 respectively. Documents in the Smith Papers (Long Island Collection, Easthampton Library) indicate that both Timothy and his brother, Elijah acted as witnesses for the Town Clerk on several occasions.

"I want to thank Assemblyman Englebright and members of the community for bringing this property to my attention, and the Law Department and Barbara Russell, our Town Historian for the research and hard work that contributed to this designation," said Councilwoman Cartright. "The rich history of the Timothy Smith House now has the honor of a Historic Landmark designation of which it is worthy."

The history of the Timothy Smith House includes stories of the family hiding weapons and valuables during the Revolutionary War when subjected to searches by British soldiers. Also on the property is a cemetery, the final resting place of many Smith family ancestors including Amos, his wife and several of his children.

"Dating from the end of the early colonial settlement period (1655-1700), the Smith Homestead is a rare and noteworthy structure for both its history and excellent condition. The landmark status designation of the Smith Homestead with its cemetery dating back to the early 1700s underscores the important place this structure has in the beginnings of the Town of Brookhaven and Setauket," stated Assemblyman Steve Englebright.

"In addition to upholding our national heritage, historic building preservation is a cornerstone of smart growth," commented Shawn Nuzzo, President of the Civic Association of the Setaukets and Stony Brook. "The landmark designation allows for historic buildings to be renovated without having to conform with the stringent building codes of today. Often those modernization costs would be prohibitively expensive for an owner, making a complete teardown a more cost-effective, albeit unfortunate, option."

"The Timothy Smith house in Setauket represents a link with our early history in Brookhaven Town," said Barbara Russell, Town of Brookhaven Historian. "Timothy's father, Daniel and his two brothers, Amos and Elijah served as Town Clerks successively from 1739 to 1788, using the house as Town Hall. It now has its rightful designation as a Town Landmark."

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